

BRAZOSPORT COLLEGE NURSING PROGRAMS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I apply for a nursing program?

Application packets are available on-line on the Health Professions website **during the admission cycle only**.

Applicants must register for the HESI entrance exam. LVN program applicants take the HESI-PN, ADN program applications take the HESI-RN, and LVN-RN transition applicants take the HESI-Mobility exam. Information about the HESI exam, costs and schedules are available in the Brazosport College Testing Center. Applicants must satisfy state of Texas, college, and program admission requirements as described in the college catalogue. Accepted students must complete an FBI background screen before full admission is granted. Applications must be turned in fully completed and on time.

When does the program begin?

The LVN program begins each January, the ADN program begins each July, and the LVN-ADN transition track begins each June.

Do I need to complete the pre-requisites before I can apply to the program?

Yes. If prerequisites are not complete, a complete assessment of the applicant's grades cannot be established and the applicant will not be as competitive.

How are students selected for admission?

Admission to nursing programs is competitive. Only a small percentage of applicants can be selected. There are always more applicants than available program openings. Applicants are ranked according to academic performance and HESI entrance exam scores, and review of completed application. After review of completed application packets, a select few are invited to interview with program representatives.

I did not get in this year, can I re-apply?

Yes, applicants who are not accepted are welcome to reapply again the following year. HESI entrance exams will need to be retaken and the application process completed again.

Can I take all the required non-nursing courses prior to starting the program?

Yes, any or all non-nursing academic courses may be taken before beginning nursing courses. The prerequisites must be successfully completed before applying.

Will courses transfer from another institution?

Pre-requisite courses can be transferred if they meet criteria. However, nursing courses from another college or university will not transfer into our nursing programs.

Will Anatomy & Physiology or Microbiology taken more than five years ago be accepted?

There is a five year limit on science prerequisite courses for the ADN program. Only classes taken five years from the start date of the Brazosport ADN program are accepted for transfer. Those applicants taking VNSG 1320 A&P for Allied Health must take the course within 2 years of application. Limitation on science courses is very common.

How long does it take to complete the program?

Once enrolled, the LVN program lasts 12 months, the ADN program lasts 2 years, and the LVN-ADN transition track lasts 1 year. Class room and clinical time alone is usually 40 hours per week, not including studying and completing assignments.

Can I work while in the nursing program?

A full-time or part time work schedule is difficult to maintain while in any nursing program. Class and clinical hours may vary, including nights, weekends, holidays, days, and 12 hour shifts. No accommodation is given to students due to work schedules, child care or other constraints. Working while in school is a common reason for failure to complete nursing programs.

Delaying school in order to work less and decrease life stress is a better choice than beginning school, failing to finish, and owing money. Realistic planning improves likelihood of success.

How much study time is required?

A minimum of 3 hours of study for each hour spent in the classroom is required. It is not possible to “cram” for a nursing exam. Quality study time is mandatory for success.

The Learning Assistance Center (LAC) is a vast resource for all students. Reading, studying, taking notes, test-taking, and other learning skills are available through the LAC. The college offers a credit course, Psyc 1300 Learning Frameworks, in these important success skills. Most students do NOT have adequate study skills. But these skills can be acquired and greatly improve student success. Tutoring is available for students.

Students forget we all have to learn and practice any skill, for success. Your teachers and college staff want students to be successful! Ask for help, work hard, and never give up.

Do I need a computer?

A computer and webcam are mandatory to be in the nursing program. An abundance of computers are available on campus. Students must have skill in word processing, using files, storing information, using email, accessing web sites, using web-based instruction, creating Power Point presentations, saving and printing, searching the web, accessing on-line learning resources, and students must own a PDA. The college offers training and support for students lacking in computer skills, or students needing refreshing or updating.

I am an LVN, are there any special options for me?

An LVN to ADN curriculum tract is offered. Interested LVNs must complete all ADN pre-requisites. Further information is available in the LVN ADN program packet and in the Health Professions office.

Will I have trouble getting a nursing license?

The board of nursing website www.bne.state.tx.us and the college nursing program information includes common causes that may prevent or delay licensure. Review this material carefully. There is a process in place for individuals with an unsatisfactory background check. Successful completion of nursing school does not mean a graduate has “a right” to sit for the NCLEX exam or even be employed by an organization. The knowledge burden is always on the applicant, student, and graduate. Each state has different rules and laws related to nursing licensure.

Where are clinical experiences?

Clinical experiences are scheduled within the surrounding area. Students can expect to have clinical experiences nights, days, weekends, and holidays. Students are expected to be flexible and accountable for their learning.

I got fired from one of the clinical facilities used in the program. Does this matter?

Yes. Any student prohibited from clinical experiences at a clinical site cannot meet course and program objectives, and may be dismissed from the program. Special accommodation related to clinical sites is not possible.

What if I become ill or get pregnant?

Students bring a rich life experience to the nursing education experience. Because of the intensity of education and clinical experiences, students must have minimal to no absences.

How can I improve my chances of success?

We encourage all students to register for and complete Psych 1300 Learning Frameworks. Learning Frameworks equips students for maximal success. Learning Frameworks should be one of the first courses anyone takes at college. Effective study habits are learned, not present at birth!

Students returning to college or taking science courses should consider starting college taking one or two courses only. Returning or new students frequently need to acquire study and test taking skill. Starting with one or two courses will increase the likely hood of success, will inspire confidence, and give students time needed to develop effective study habits. Students get a realistic picture of the time required for study, and can better prepare for the intense nursing curriculum.

I have heard nursing students have dress and behavior rules even on class days. Is this true?

Yes. Nursing students are entering a profession with high expectations and obligations. Nursing students must view school as a job and behave accordingly.

Visit the Brazosport College Homepage (www.brazosport.edu) and consult with an admissions advisor